

Focus Area 3: Colorectal Cancer

Objective 3-5 targets an overall reduction in the colorectal cancer death rate to 13.9 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for colorectal cancer were 17.8 per 100,000 population in 2000, 17.2 in 2001, 16.4 in 2002, and 16.3 in 2003 (Figure 3-5, Table 3-5). Although declining, California's colorectal cancer death rates are significantly higher than the HP2010 objective of 13.9 per 100,000 population.

California data by race and ethnicity show that Blacks/African Americans had the highest age-adjusted colorectal cancer death rates: 27.0 per 100,000 in 2000; 28.4 in 2001; and 24.6 in 2002 and 2003. The next highest colorectal cancer death rate was found for American Indians/Alaska Natives in 2000 (20.3 per 100,000), although the rates for 2001-2003 were unreliable due to the small number of events. The next highest rates were reported for Whites (18.9 per 100,000 in 2000, 18.5 in 2001, 17.7 in 2002, and 17.2 in 2003). These rates are significantly higher than the HP2010 target of 13.9 per 100,000 population, and this objective is not being achieved for these racial groups. The HP2010 objective for colorectal cancer death rates is, however, being achieved for the Asian and Hispanic/Latino populations. Rates for the Pacific Islander and the "Multirace" populations were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported here.

Age-adjusted colorectal cancer death rates for males were significantly higher than rates for females, and also significantly higher than the HP2010 target. Death rates were 21.1 per 100,000 males in 2000, 20.1 in 2001, and 18.9 in 2002 and 2003, compared with 15.5 per 100,000 females in 2000, 15.0 in 2001, 14.4 in 2002, and 14.1 in 2003. Although death rates are declining, this HP2010 objective is not being achieved for either males or females as of 2003.

For more information on colorectal cancer in California, visit the California Cancer Registry Web site at:

<http://www.ccrca.org/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 3-5, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume1/03Cancer.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od03.htm>

Figure 3-5
Colorectal Cancer Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

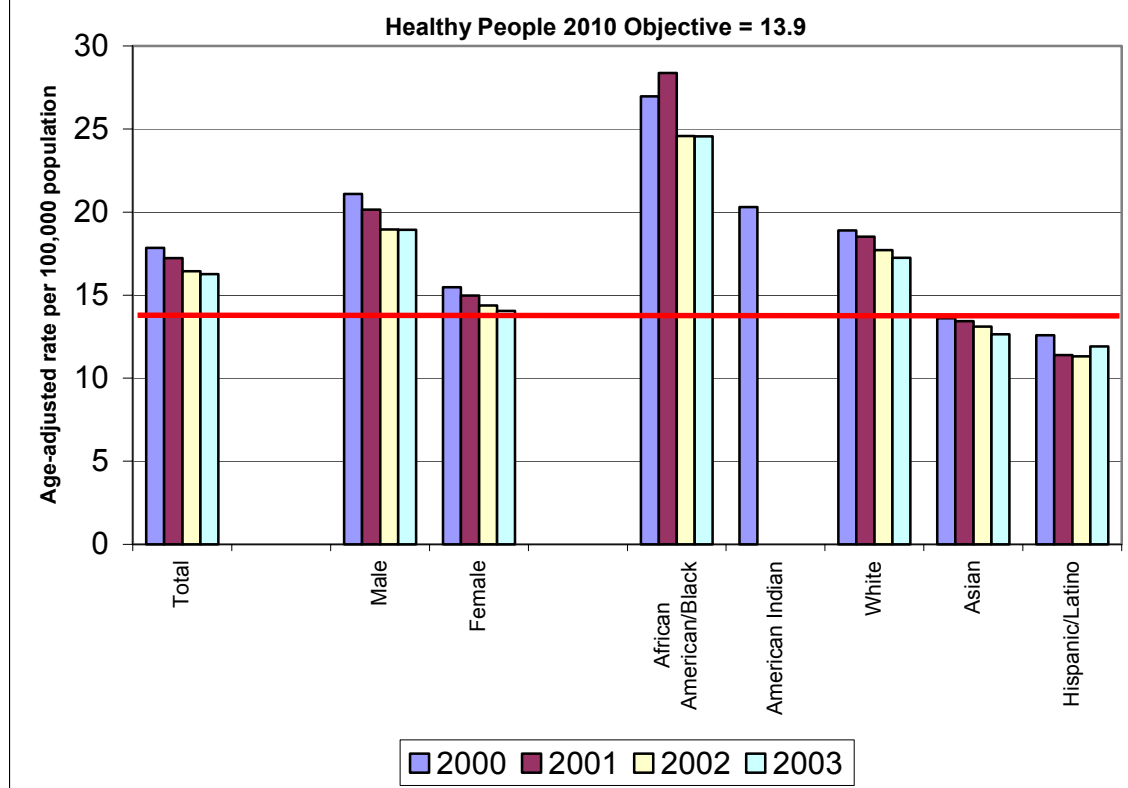


Table 3-5
Colorectal Cancer Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

	2000		Lower	Upper	2001		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		13.9				13.9		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	5,231	17.8	17.4	18.3	5,262	17.2	16.8	17.7
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	421	27.0	24.4	29.6	462	28.4	25.7	31.0
American Indian	25	20.3	12.0	28.6	10	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	397	13.6	12.2	15.0	422	13.4	12.1	14.7
Hispanic/Latino	539	12.6	11.5	13.7	509	11.4	10.3	12.4
Pacific Islander	10	DSU	-----	-----	6	DSU	-----	-----
White	3,831	18.9	18.3	19.5	3,845	18.5	17.9	19.1
Multirace	7	DSU	-----	-----	5	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	2,626	15.5	14.9	16.1	2,641	15.0	14.4	15.5
Male	2,605	21.1	20.3	21.9	2,621	20.1	19.4	20.9

	2002		Lower	Upper	2003		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		13.9				13.9		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	5,234	16.4	16.0	16.9	5,351	16.3	15.8	16.7
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	416	24.6	22.2	27.0	441	24.6	22.2	26.9
American Indian	20	DSU	-----	-----	15	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	445	13.1	11.9	14.3	452	12.6	11.5	13.8
Hispanic/Latino	565	11.3	10.3	12.3	640	11.9	10.9	12.9
Pacific Islander	10	DSU	-----	-----	13	DSU	-----	-----
White	3,769	17.7	17.1	18.3	3,766	17.2	16.7	17.8
Multirace	6	DSU	-----	-----	21	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	2,632	14.4	13.8	14.9	2,663	14.1	13.5	14.6
Male	2,602	18.9	18.2	19.7	2,688	18.9	18.2	19.7

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2003; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2030, May 2004.

NOTES: Colorectal cancer deaths defined by ICD-10 codes C18-C21.

¹ Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard; excludes death records with unknown ages.

DSU = Data Statistically Unreliable based on small number of events.